



Update on the National OPSEC Program

With the new year in full swing, I wanted to give you a fresh update on the National OPSEC Program and the Interagency OPSEC Support Staff (IOSS).

National OPSEC Conference

We are gearing up for the 21st annual National OPSEC Conference to be held from 3-7 May at the fabulous Gaylord Resort in Nashville, Tennessee. The conference will provide great opportunities to network with other OPSEC professionals and to learn more about how to apply the OPSEC process to protect your operations and personnel. I'm sure this year's conference theme, "In Tune with OPSEC," will resonate and encourage you to apply OPSEC to protect your critical information from adversaries' exploitation.

There will be a full schedule of presentations including one by special guest Frank Abignale, whose life story and social engineering bravado were depicted in the Hollywood blockbuster "Catch Me If You Can," starring Leonardo DiCaprio, as well as briefings from national experts in the OPSEC and Information Operations disciplines. This year's conference will feature seven professional learning tracks: OPSEC Awareness and Training; Vulnerabilities and Countermeasures; Defense; Homeland Security; Threat; Corporate; and, a Virtual Worlds Hands-On Lab presented by Dr. Robert (Rocky) Young of the National Defense University. A week-long Program Managers Tutorial Program will provide in-depth mentoring by OPSEC experts from across the Government to new OPSEC program managers. Several exhibitors, both Government and private sector, will be there to make their OPSEC resources available. For more information on the conference, visit the IOSS' website at www.ioiss.gov.

Mission Travel

On another front, a significantly reduced FY10 budget has prompted us to take measures that, while regrettable, will help to sustain the National OPSEC Program until more bountiful times return.

- Because our travel budget has been reduced significantly, the first action we've had to take is to cancel the OPSEC Forum for this year. Even the National OPSEC Conference will require economies on our part, though we are hoping to make them transparent to the attendees. Conferences and booth exhibits in the local Washington/Baltimore Metropolitan area are still available, so we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these events.
- We'll continue to provide mobile training classes and outreach briefings at the customer's site, but only as long as the sponsoring organization is able to pay for associated travel costs. To alleviate some of this burden, we're developing a couple of video products that we hope will be good substitutes for several of our most popular outreach briefings. We've also increased e-Learning classes for this year and are developing a Continuing Education program that will also be delivered via e-Learning. Look for more information on this program at the IOSS' website.

Products

Reduced funding has also seriously affected our ability to develop new OPSEC training and awareness products as well as to resupply our stock of current products. As a result, we are initiating several changes that will allow us to continue providing products for OPSEC program managers worldwide while reducing production and shipping costs.

- We have begun to include downloadable versions of some of our printed products (e.g., posters, publications) on our on-line ordering system. Please feel free to have your organization make copies of these items for your personnel. In many cases, we can provide master copies of our multimedia products so that your organization can have the items produced locally. Please send an e-mail to ioss@radium.ncsc.mil if you believe this solution may work for your particular organization.
- We are phasing out expensive and more labor-intensive packaging for some products to reduce associated printing, handling and shipping costs.
- Unfortunately, we must also reduce the quantity of products that can be ordered to two (2) copies of individual items per request, and we will no longer be able to provide large quantities of products to support customer conferences and training programs. Instead, we ask that you post the items on your intranets, show them in auditorium or classroom venues during training sessions or breaks, and have only seriously interested participants order their own copies directly from the IOSS. These measures will help to reduce the funding required for both products and shipping materials (i.e., envelopes, boxes, labels), especially for multiple orders that are each packed separately for shipping.

On a positive note, the IOSS is rolling out several new products related to social networking sites and the use of OPSEC to protect your critical information at work and home. One of these products, "OPSEC and Social Networking Sites Safety Checklist," is available now on the IOSS' homepage under "What's New." Other products will be posted as soon as they are available.

On-line Ordering System

The IOSS is reinventing its on-line ordering system this year to provide better service and easier navigation. We hope to have the new system ready for testing during the summer. We'll provide more updates on this project in the future.

Rest assured, the IOSS is doing everything possible to sustain the same high quality of service that we have provided in the past. OPSEC training and awareness have never been more important, so we will remain vigilant in ensuring that OPSEC remains at the forefront of U.S. critical information protection. As always, we greatly appreciate your support and your efforts to keep our Nation secure.

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